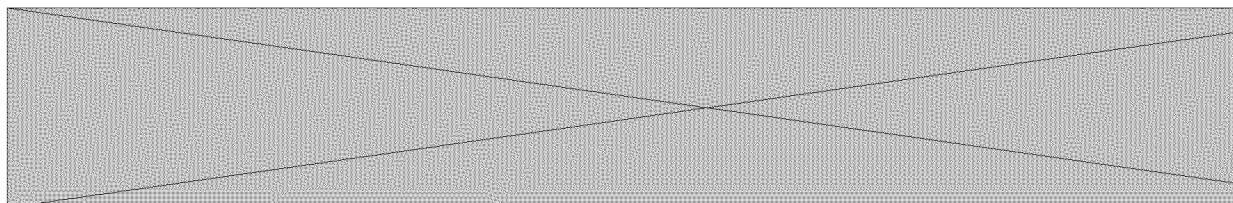


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TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES
DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016 7:00 AM EDT

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• Flint Officials Say They Are Slowly Adding Chlorine To City's Water. (MLIVE, FREEP, DETN)

• EPA To Re-Evaluate Idaho's Arsenic Standards. (AP)

• Erin Brockovich Confirms She'll Be Part Of Investigation Into Contaminated Wells Near Military Bases. (BUCKSC)

• Additional Reading.

- New Bills To Reduce Lead Poisoning Risk In Philadelphia. (KYWTV)

Air

Manufacturers Urges Congress To Slow EPA Smog Regulations.

The Washington Examiner (6/7, Feldscher) reports that the National Association of Manufacturers wrote to lawmakers Tuesday urging passage of the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016 which "would delay the implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's smog standards." Aric Newhouse, the group's senior vice president for policy and government relations, wrote that "while modern manufacturing has evolved into a technology-driven industry, many of our environmental policies, such as the ozone rule, have failed to keep pace."

Connecticut Asks EPA To Require Emissions Cuts At Pennsylvania Coal Plant.

The AP (6/7) reports that Connecticut's top environmental official Robert Klee says Connecticut has the highest ozone levels in the Northeast due in part to air pollution from upwind sources and diesel trucks. Saying the state will no longer accept being the "tailpipe of America," Klee is joining ten state and local agencies in asking the US EPA to require the Brunner Island Steam Electric Station in Pennsylvania to reduce pollution from its three coal units. WTIC-TV Hartford, CT (6/7) provides additional coverage.

DC Metro Shutdowns During Rehabilitation Period Could Impact Ozone Compliance.

Bloomberg BNA (6/8, Ambrosio) reports that the Washington DC area's yearlong effort to rehabilitate the Metrorail system is expected to "increase congestion, vehicle miles traveled and associated air emissions in parts of the D.C. area." This will occur "at a critical time" for the District's efforts to attain the EPA's 70 parts per billion ozone standards issued in 2015.

EPA Inspector General To Probe Clean Air Act Inspector Training Program.

E&E News PM (6/8, Reilly) reports that the EPA's inspector general said he will probe the agency's Clean Air Act inspector training program following a 2013 evaluation that found "one-third of the inspectors in EPA's risk management program lacked documentation showing they met minimum training requirements."

House Votes Wednesday On Rep. Olson's Ozone Standards Bill.

Bloomberg BNA (6/8) reports that on Wednesday, the House of Representatives will consider a bill that would delay implementation of the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016 by nearly eight years. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Pete Olson (R-Texas), said the delay is necessary to give states time to meet the 75 parts per billion ozone standards set in 2008 "before moving on to an even more aggressive air quality goal" of 70 ppb.

White House Suggests It Would Veto Block On Ozone Rule. The Hill (6/7, Henry) reports that White House officials released a statement warning that Obama's advisors "would recommend he veto the bill if it hits his desk, as he has with other GOP efforts this year to overturn EPA rules." The statement also "touted the importance of cutting ozone pollution for public health, saying the ozone standards are 'science-based' and highlighted the growth of the economy even as ozone levels decrease."

Additional Reading.

EPA Asks Judge To Sink NC's Ozone Region Suit. Law360. (6/7)

Brownfields/Superfund/Other Cleanups

Additional Reading.

- **Federal Agency Collusion Polluted 'Independent' Gold King Mine Review.** Daily Caller. (6/7, Barton)
- **Continuing Coverage: Giving It Contaminated Landfill Would Not Speed Fix.** AP. (6/8, Suhr)
- **San Jacinto River Near Houston Being Considered For Cleanup.** Washington Times. (6/7)

Climate Change

Poll: Climate Change Most Divisive Voter Issue.

The Hill (6/7, Cama) reports that a Gallup poll "found that 72 percent of Democrats think climate change is a very important or extremely important in how they will vote in this year's elections, compared with 25 percent of Republicans and 44 percent of independent voters." The treatment of minority groups and the size and efficiency of the federal government were also among the most divisive issues in Gallup's survey.

DC Pension Board Votes To Divest From Direct Fossil Fuel Investments.

The Washington Times (6/7, Richardson) reports the District of Columbia Council approved Tuesday a resolution in favor of divesting the city's \$6.4 billion pension fund from direct investments in 200 fossil fuel companies, "a move that drew kudos from climate groups and shrugs from critics who dismissed the action as purely symbolic." DivestmentFacts.com in a Monday post wrote, "Divesting from only direct holdings has been an increasingly popular way to satisfy divestment activists' demands without incurring the costs associated with actually dropping all fossil fuel investments."

Developers Bypassing Environmental Laws Via California Ballot Initiatives.

The New York Times (6/7, Lovett) reports that developers are taking advantage of California's ballot initiative system "to sidestep state environmental laws and speed up major developments."

Residents often don't get to vote on the measures, because local elected officials "often approve the project to avoid paying for a special election that could further strain tight budgets." Walmart has "pioneered" the use of the initiatives, using the ballot to propose stores in at least nine California cities, with elected officials approving the measures "without a vote in eight of those cases."

Energy

EPA Rules On Methane Emissions Said To Address Anti-fracking Activists' Concerns.

Former EPA assistant administrator J. Winston Porter writes for The Hill (6/7, Porter) that the EPA's new regulations on methane emissions from new oil and natural gas wells "should put any lingering concerns to bed" for anti-fracking activists. Porter writes that activists' claims have been "greatly exaggerated," and that "since 2005, methane emissions from fracked oil and natural gas wells have fallen 79 percent, even as production has surged." From an environmental perspective, Porter writes that greater reliance on natural gas has been "great news for everyone except for the coal industry and the most fringe environmental activists."

Helis Stopping Some Stormwater Testing At St. Tammany Drill Site.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (6/7, Rhoden) reports Helis Oil & Gas Co. has suspended its monthly testing of stormwater "for sulfates, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, temperature and total dissolved solids" at its proposed drill site in St. Tammany after the company received approval from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Greg Beuerman, a spokesman for Helis, "said the amendment of the plan in no way affects the daily, pre-discharge sampling of the most relevant parameters – oil and grease, pH and chlorides – to which Helis has always been committed."

Ohio Sues Imprisoned Businessman Over Dumping Drilling Waste

The AP (6/7) reports that the Ohio Attorney General has filed a civil lawsuit against Ben Lupo, "the owner of a northeast Ohio company who was sent to prison over the dumping of oil-field waste into a storm sewer in 2012 and 2013."

Grants

Additional Reading.

- **EPA Awards Norwich \$384K For Cleanup.** Norwich (CT) Bulletin. (6/7)
- **Cumberland County Agency Awarded \$200k For Environmental Training.** Central Penn Business Journal (PA). (6/7)

International

Additional Reading.

- **New Study Throws Doubt On China Car Emissions Data.** Reuters. (6/7, Spring)

Other News

Additional Reading.

- **EPA Computer Guy Charged With Possessing Child Pornography.** [Channahon-Minooka \(IL\) Patch.](#) (6/7)

Pesticides

Lawmakers Question EPA Staff Over Personal Bias In Glyphosate Review.

[Reuters](#) (6/7, Huffstutter) reports that a Congressional subcommittee is probing EPA staff over possible bias in a scientific review of glyphosate, which was removed from the agency's website several days after being published. In that report, the EPA determined that glyphosate was not cancer-causing, which directly contradicts a similar review by WHO's cancer arm. The EPA said it was "currently reviewing our standard operating procedures for the release of documents to avoid the inadvertent release of pre-decisional information in the future."

EPA's Independent Scientists Responsible For Glyphosate Report Criticized For Unrelated Opinions. In an article titled, "House Dem Arranges EPA Meeting With Vaccine Truthers," the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/7, Markay) reports on the EPA's removal of a report supporting the safety of the chemical glyphosate from its website. The Beacon says that around the time the report was removed, "Rep. Ted Lieu (D., Calif.) was trying to arrange a meeting between top EPA officials and a group of 'independent scientists' who blame glyphosate for 'a large variety of cancers, organ failures, neurological, [and] environmental harm.'" That delegation of independent scientists is criticized for its inclusion of MIT computer scientist Stephanie Seneff, who is "a frequent critic of vaccines."

Additional Reading.

- **Farming Groups At Odds With EPA Over Herbicide Study.** [Lubbock \(TX\) Avalanche-Journal.](#) (6/7, Musico)

Rules/Regulations/Policy

Senate Unanimously Approves Overhaul Of Toxic Substances Control Act.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Eilperin) reports that legislation to "overhaul the way the federal government regulates every chemical sold on the market in the United States" unanimously passed the Senate Tuesday evening, marking "the most sweeping environmental measure to pass Congress in a quarter century." The reauthorization of the Toxic Substances Control Act, which has long been "criticized as ineffective," had the support of "the chemical industry, trial lawyers and many public health and environmental groups." The measure "provid[es] chemical manufacturers with greater certainty while giving the Environmental Protection Agency the ability to obtain more information about a chemical before approving its use." The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Davenport) says the bill has drawn criticism from "some public health and environmental advocates" who say that "while it slightly strengthens the existing law, the bill's authors ceded too much to chemical companies." The measure now goes to the President, who is expected to sign it. Also covering the story are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Berzon, Harder), the [AP](#) (6/7, Daly), [Reuters](#) (6/7), and [Politico](#) (6/7, Goode, Guillén).

Iowa Renewable Fuels Association Stands By EPA's E15 Approval.

In a letter to the editor of the [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#), (6/7, Shaw) Monte Shaw of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association responds to a driver's concern that "E15 is not specifically

mentioned in his vehicle's owner's manual," explaining that most new car manufacturers "now explicitly approve E15 in the owner's manuals and on the gas cap." Shaw says that drivers can still choose whether or not to use E15, but concludes, "if you like to pay less for a higher-octane, cleaner-burning fuel, then join the growing number of Iowans choosing E15."

Ohio AG DeWine Praises His Role In Halting "Regulatory Overreach".

In an op-ed in the Eaton (OH) Register-Herald, (6/8) Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine praises his own role in pushing the EPA to change the language of a proposed regulation that would restricted the modification motor vehicles engines and their emissions control devices under the Clean Air Act. According to Dewine, "This is another example of how my office has worked to protect Ohio jobs and businesses from this administration's attempted regulatory overreach." Now he says he is targeting the EPA's "Waters of the United States" rule, noting that his lawsuit in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals "ultimately issued a stay to stop the effect of this sweeping, illegal rule."

White House Reviewing Truck Efficiency Standards Before Final Release.

The Hill (6/7, Cama) reports that the White House's Office of Management and Budget began on Monday reviewing a regulation setting new efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions standards for heavy trucks and buses, a last step before regulators can make the rule final and release it publicly. OMB's review "is meant to determine whether the rule complies with the law and the Obama administration's priorities."

Water

EPA Issues New Guidance For Post-Nuclear Accident Drinking Water Contamination.

E&E Publishing (6/7, Northey, Stecker) reports that US EPA has issued its "first-ever guidance on contamination in drinking water in the wake of a nuclear disaster, 'dirty bomb' or other radiological accident, drawing criticism from public health and environmental groups." The EPA posted the Protective Action Guide on its website. The guide is designed to prevent acute and chronic effects of radiation. The "proposal says the general public could be exposed to 500 millirem in drinking water, while pregnant and nursing women and children 15 years and younger would be limited to 100 millirem." While the guidance would not change the Safe Drinking Water Act, which sets the maximum contaminant levels, the EPA said, after a radiological accident, "operators of water systems would be expected to come back into compliance with the law as soon as possible, the agency said."

Flint Officials Say They Are Slowly Adding Chlorine To City's Water.

MLive (MI) (6/7, Fonger) reports that Flint officials announced the city is adding more chlorine to the water in preparation for summer. They add that they will not rush their work in a response to a letter from the EPA that expressed concerns about the city's water not being adequately chlorinated.

The Detroit Free Press (6/7, Egan) reports Flint Mayor Karen Weaver and the city's interim utilities administrator JoLisa McDay announced on Tuesday that they are hesitant to add more chlorine to the city's water because of concerns that the chemical could wear down the protective coating that the city is trying to build on their pipes.

The Detroit News (6/7, Carah) also covers the story.

EPA To Re-Evaluate Idaho's Arsenic Standards.

The AP (6/7) reports that the EPA will retract its approval of Idaho's water quality standards for arsenic under a settlement agreement with the Oregon-based environmental group Northwest Environmental Advocates. The EPA will re-evaluate whether to re-approve Idaho's arsenic standards by September.

Erin Brockovich Confirms She'll Be Part Of Investigation Into Contaminated Wells Near Military Bases.

The Bucks County (PA) Courier Times (6/7, Bagenstose) reports that the New York City law firm Weitz & Luxenberg and its spokeswoman Erin Brockovich confirmed Tuesday that they will investigate PFOA and PFOS contamination in wells in Bucks and Montgomery counties that is believed to have originated at three nearby military bases.

Additional Reading.

- **New Bills To Reduce Lead Poisoning Risk In Philadelphia.** KYW-TV. Philadelphia (6/7, Loeb)

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